August 20, 2025

Good afternoon MCA Learning Community -

We are excited to see all of our students arrive tomorrow for the first day of school!

Here are some questions and answers for the start of the school year.
Please spend time this evening reviewing with your child (especially school safety and security items.)

1. Where can I find information on the district dress code? Please see attached: https://go.boarddocs.com/pa/mcar/Board.nsf/files/DJCJU84ED540/$file/Dress%20Code%20Policy%20Attachment.pdf

2. Will MCA again be participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for school breakfast and lunch? Yes, all students who attend the Mount Carmel Area School District will receive a nutritional breakfast and lunch at no charge. No application is needed. The district will be offering a la carte items at a cost to the student. Students will have to pay for any item that is in addition to the free breakfast or lunch. Students may purchase a la carte items if they have funds in their caf/trac account. For more information on school breakfast and lunch: http://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/food-services-2/

3. Did anything change related to school safety and security? As always, school safety of students and staff is our top priority. Please speak to your child about the importance of not making threats both in school and on social media. Any threat will be handled swiftly by our Administration and School Resource Officer. Just like you don't get on an airplane and yell “bomb” or enter a movie theatre and yell “fire” students can't make threats to our school or to any staff member or student. “Joking around” will never be tolerated as a student excuse.

Our district has made plans to have guest speakers talk to our students early on in the school year on these topics but we also need parental help in discussions with their children. We expect our students to be leaders and not bully, antagonize, or threaten others. We all play an important role in keeping our buildings safe.

All students will again enter our buildings through our metal detectors every day. Chromebooks must be pulled out of bags and ready to be handed off to our security staff. Students should be reminded to keep their bags and belongings as organized as possible. **Students must understand that they will be held responsible for belongings in their possession.** Again, please speak to your children about the importance of not having anything dangerous that could be considered a weapon or a weapon look-a-like.

4. How can I get the most up-to-date information related to school activities? Our district will continue to utilize our alert now system for parents and guardians. Make sure the district has your most up-to-date phone information. We also ask that parents and guardians check the

main website often http://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/. Our district will also utilize social media, both Twitter @MCAEducation and Facebook, but again, we recommended using the main website for the important information related to our school district. Your school building also has its own Twitter and Facebook pages.

5. Where can I find information on bus schedules? Bus schedules can be found here:https://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/bus-schedules/

6. Where can I find the 2025-2026 School Calendar? The calendar can be found here: https://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/daily-calendars/

For more information, please contact your building's main office or District Office at 570 339 1500.

We are all very much excited for the start of the 2025-2026 school year!

Pete Cheddar
Superintendent